

Joint Session Input

Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence Network
September 14, 2011

Discussion: Have we evolved in a way that is inclusive, transparent, and open for broad community involvement?

Members were asked to breakout into four small groups to provide feedback about the Network's purpose, structure, strategy, 3-year framework, and its responsiveness regarding inclusivity, openness and transparency. Following is a summary of areas of agreement and comments made by members of the four groups.

✓ - indicates the comment was made more than once

CCR Network Purpose

The purpose of the CCR Network is to achieve a coordinated and effective systematic response to domestic violence, with the ultimate goal of reducing the incidence of domestic violence in Marin County.

At least two teams will be established to accomplish this purpose: the Interagency Team and a criminal justice response team, known as the Blueprint for Safety Team.

Areas of Agreement

- Reducing domestic violence.
- Examining treatment methods.
- Increasing understanding of everyone's role.
- Having the two components is feasible.
- Use of the term "family violence" is all encompassing and positive.
- Building data.
- Brining agencies together.
- It's good to know each other.
- Having common goals.

Comments

- More domestic violence awareness and education is needed in the community. ✓✓
- Both teams need to focus on common goals.
- Careful about accountability of using the term "family violence" – don't want to water it down.
- Are there funds tied to specific goals?
 - Grant goals and objectives need to be transparent

CCR Network Strategies

The CCR Network will use the following strategies in order to achieve its purpose:

- Bring together public and private sectors.
- Engage in networking, critical thinking, and problem-solving about system gaps and responses.
- Transfer the work of the CCR Network back to all entities for integration.
- Explore and evaluate evidence-based and emerging best practices in prevention and intervention.

The CCR Network recognizes a commitment to California's domestic violence statutes and a commitment to the regulations and provisions of the U.S. Department of Justice to promote solutions that have been found to increase victim safety and batterer accountability.

Areas of Agreement

- Being systematic is key.
- Using best practices. ✓✓
- Being evidenced-based.
- Increasing standards.
- Building data.
- Prioritizing meetings by team members

Comments

- Need to prioritize the rights of child witnesses.
- Need to understand domestic violence from the family's perspective by inviting them to share their experiences with service providers and the court system.
- Are the CCR Network strategies outlined in a grant?
- The Interagency Team and Blueprint Team need to work together to fill in gaps and learn from each other. ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- All voices not heard in separate meeting.
- There needs to be an understanding of the value of evaluation.
- Evaluation requires a strong facilitator.
- Adopt forms previously used.
- There needs to be improved connections and trust among CCR Network members.
- There needs to be more focus on prevention/marketing.
- How will we measure effectiveness?
 - There needs to be pre/post methods for measuring effectiveness? ✓✓
 - What tools do we use to measure?
 - Metric agree on
 - Mutually agreed outcomes
- What are the resources devoted to the Network?
- How can we get more non-English speakers to participate?

- How do we bring more information to agencies/individuals that are in difficult to reach geographic areas?
- Need to bring in school districts and early childhood communities
- People must commit the values as outlined by the U.S. Department of Justice. The wording the CCR Network uses is vague and needs to be better defined.

CCR Network Structure

The CCR Network structure consists of:

- Quarterly meetings in September, December, March and June at the Civic Center.
- Shared decision making by members and facilitators. Mutually agreed-upon strategic goals and expectations.
- Production of an annual report
- Process to be inclusive, transparent and accountable to participants.
- Agenda requests to facilitators 4 weeks prior to meeting. Facilitators review requests and meet with requestors and others as needed. Agendas and minutes posted on partner websites.
- General Roberts Rule of Order
- The Interagency Team and Blueprint for Safety Team will meet separately. The Interagency Team will be open to the public. The Blueprint for Safety time will not be open to the public.

Areas of Agreement

- Must be inclusive.
- Must be transparent.
- Separate teams mean different goals.

Comments

- A strong facilitator is needed for Interagency Team and Blueprint Team Joint Session.
- Clarify who is responsible for annual report.
- Who requests agenda items?
- Quarterly meetings might be optimistic.
- The shared decision making process needs to be better explained since it can determine an individual's commitment. ✓✓
- How will the Network handle conflict?
- How do you incorporate descent? Leave reasonable descent in place.
- The existing model needs to be more transparent and better explained in order for the group to move forward. ✓✓
- Blueprint for Safety Team Meetings should be open to the public. ✓✓✓✓
- Bi-laws.
- There needs to be shared leadership of meetings including facilitation, agenda setting and location of meeting. ✓✓

- Meeting should be at a neutral site.
- The structure suggests there is transparency but with systemic barriers.

A 3-Year Proposed Framework

There is a 3-year proposed framework in place for the CCR Network.

1. Year One: Collect information, identify gaps in our agencies and response systems, and recommend community-defined solutions.
2. Year Two: Build victim safety and batterer accountability into case processing, treatment, and prevention. Evaluate.
3. Year Three: Reduce future domestic violence.

Areas of Agreement

- Building data.
- Objectives.
- Goals.
- Measuring outcomes.

Comments

- Measurements – If we are successful in 3 years, how will we measure that? What is the baseline? ✓✓
- Is the 3-year framework related to a 3-year grant?
- Does it really take a year to collect information/data? Case processing needs to be dealt with ahead of time.
- Framing family relationships.
- Capacity-building will be an issue. Create more opportunity to build a common approach for all service providers.
- Who will collect and analyze the data? This will drive decision making.

Inclusivity

Areas of Agreement

- Making a good effort.
- Everyone's opinion heard with respect.
- It takes time to build trust.
- Can we create an open/accessible environment for families to work with us and ask for their input?

Comments

- It needs to be measured/monitored over time.
- Must be based on commitment to using research, best practices. Not inclusive to the point of having in-fighting.
- How will law balance with opinion?
- Need to make sure actual voices within the community are heard.
- Need to include cultural competency. How do we have culturally competent responses to these communities?
- Need be more inclusive of offenders as well as victims.
- There needs to be a concerted effort to identify who is not at the meeting and to determine how to build bridges with these agencies/departments.

Openness

Areas of Agreement

- It takes time to build trust.
- Encourage the public to attend CCR Network meetings, including victims and reformed abusers.

Comments

- Facilitators and members needs to be proactive about being open.

Transparency

Areas of Agreement

- It takes time to build trust.
- If necessary for the Interagency Team and Blueprint Team to meet separately than there needs to be note-taking and shared with other group. The Interagency Team needs to understand what the Blueprint Team is doing.

Comments

- Precept/practice
- Does everyone know Department of Justice?
- Is there going to be some kind of an open forum/blog so that we know what is being asked/said about the CCR Network?